

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0304

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS OF
JUNE 24, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE JUNE 24 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE
VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE NETHERLANDS
REP, UK REP AND US DEPREP AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS
KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER AND POLISH
REP STRULAK.

2. THE SESSION WAS CHARACTERIZED BY ACTIVE EXCHANGE.
EASTERN REPS CONTINUED TO CHARGE THAT THE WEST WAS VIOLATING
THE AGREED COMMUNIQUE IN NOT PROPOSING REDUCTION OF
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ARMAMENTS AND THAT THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WOULD

LEAVE THE WAY OPEN FOR AN UNCONTROLLED ARMAMENTS RACE. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES PLACED GREAT STRESS ON NEED TO REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND ON VALUE OF RESULTING LIMITATIONS TO BLOCK AN ARMS RACE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN RESPONSE

TO KHLESTOV'S PROPOSAL DURING THE LAST SESSION TO WORK OUT AGREED DEFINITION OF GROUND AND AIR FORCES, WESTERN REPS PUT FORWARD THEIR DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AND MADE THE POINT THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NAVY, REMAINING ACTIVE DUTY FORCES IN THE AREA WERE IN THE AIR FORCES. KHLESTOV RESPONDED WITH SOME PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE.

3. CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER BEGAN THE SESSION WITH A COMPREHENSIVE RECITAL OF SHORTCOMINGS OF WESTERN POSITION. HE SAID THE TWO MAIN OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE THE REFUSAL OF NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO UNDERTAKE INDIVIDUAL REDUCTION COMMITMENTS FROM THE OUTSET AND OF THE WEST TO AGREE TO REDUCTION OF ITS OWN ARMAMENTS. NETHERLANDS REP EXPLAINED WESTERN POSITION ON ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS, SAYING THAT LIMITATIONS ON MANPOWER PROVIDED A BASIC RESTRAINT ON ARMAMENTS AND THAT EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAD APPEARED TO AGREE WITH THIS VIEW WHEN THEY HAD PRESENTED THEIR NOVEMBER 26 PROPOSAL FOR A NO-INCREASE IN MILITARY MANPOWER, CLAIMING THAT IT WOULD BLOCK THE ARMS RACE IN THE AREA.

4. POLISH REP STRULAK CLAIMED THE WESTERN APPROACH WOULD LEAD TO UNLIMITED ARMS RACE. HE ALSO CALIMED THAT THE EAST IN PRESENTING ITS NOVEMBER 26 PROPOSAL FOR A NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON MANPOWER DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD ALSO IN EFFECT PROPOSED A COMMITMENT NOT TO MAKE LARGE-SCALE INCREASES IN ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA. NETHERLANDS REP RESPONDED THAT BOTH SIDES WERE ENGAGING IN FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS AND THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN TRADING CHARGES ON THE SUBJECT. US DEPREP POINTED OUT THAT, WHEN EASTERN REPS HAD BEEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THEIR NO-INCREASE PROPOSAL, THEY HAD CLAIMED THAT IT REFERRED EXCLUSIVELY TO MANPOWER AND HAD ARGUED THAT IT WOULD

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NONETHELESS BLOCK THE ARMS RACE. EASTERN REPS THEN OPENED CONCENTRATED FIRE OF QUESTIONS AS TO HOW A 700,000-MAN COMMON

CEILING COULD POSSIBLY INHIBIT INCREASES IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

5. UK REP RESPONDED TO KHLESTOV'S PROPOSAL IN PREVIOUS SESSION THAT PARTICIPANTS WORK OUT AN AGREED DEFINITION AS TO WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE INCLUDED UNDER GROUND FORCES

AND AIR FORCES PARALLEL WITH DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES. UK REP SAID ALLIES CONSIDERED IT WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO DISCUSS DEFINITIONS TOGETHER WITH THE GROUND AND AIR FORCE TOTALS TO WHICH THE DEFINITIONS WOULD RELATE. HE PRESENTED THE WESTERN DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES AND STATED THAT REMAINING ACTIVE DUTY FORCES IN THE AREA ASIDE FROM NAVAL FORCES WERE AIR FORCES.

6. KHLESTOV SAID HE TOOK THIS WESTERN RESPONSE AS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO DISCUSS DEFINITIONS. HE SAID THE EAST HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION WITH REGARD TO DATA EXCHANGE. HE PROPOSED THAT THE DEFINITIONS ISSUE EITHER BE DISCUSSED TOGETHER WITH BASIC ISSUES IN THE SAME INFORMAL SESSION OR IN SEQUENCE, WITH ONE FULL SESSION DEVOTED TO DEFINITIONS AND THE NEXT ONE TO OTHER ISSUES, AND SO ON. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THOSE DIRECT PARTICIPANT HEADS OF DELEGATION PARTICIPATING IN ANY GIVEN SESSION IN WHICH DEFINITIONS WERE DISCUSSED SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR MILITARY ADVISERS. (COMMENT: IT MAY BE THAT KHLESTOV AND OTHER WARSAW PACT REPRESENTATIVES ARE THEMSELVES UNDER PRESSURE FROM THEIR MILITARY ADVISORS AND PERHAPS CAPITALS TO INCLUDE THE MILITARY ADVISORS IN DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS. END COMMENT).

7. KHLESTOV PROPOSED THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE DISCUSSION ON DEFINITIONS BE AS FOLLOWS: "FOR PURPOSES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, TO WORK OUT AN AGREED DEFINITION OF WHAT FORCES BELONG TO GROUND FORCES AND WHAT FORCES BELONG TO AIR FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS." UK REP SAID ALLIED REPS WOULD REPORT THESE PROPOSALS. HE NOTED THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE ON THE BASIS THAT THE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. HE SAID THE WEST MAINTAINED
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ITS POSITION THAT DATA DISCUSSION SHOULD BE LINKED WITH DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS. ALLIED REPS ALSO MADE STIPULATION THAT POSSIBLE AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC AS KHLESTOV HAD DEFINED IT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT IMPLY ANY AGREEMENT WHATEVER AS TO THE METHOD OR APPROACH WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN TO FIND AN AGREED DEFINITION. KHLESTOV AGREED TO ALL OF THESE POINTS, BUT DECLINED TO ACCEPT SUGGESTIONS BY WESTERN REPS TO AMEND THIS FORMULA, ARGUING THAT, TO ATTEMPT TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION WOULD COMPLICATE THE PROJECT. ALLIED REPS SAID THEY WOULD CONFER WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES WITH THE AIM OF GIVING KHLESTOV AN ALLIED ANSWER TO HIS SUGGESTION BY JUNE 26 OR 27. END SUMMARY.
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